REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-22 presently stand rejected. A Petition for Extension of Time is attached.

Overview of Non-Final Office Action

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Wookey (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,244) in view of Naugle (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,393). Claims 1-22 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Kuwabara (U.S. Patent No. 6,065,136) in view of Wookey (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,244).

The undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for the teleconference conducted on January 10, 2005. During the teleconference, it was explained that independent claims 1, 9, 13, 15 and 16 are distinguished from Wookey in view of Naugle, and Kuwabara in view of Wookey because they include features regarding an automation system, which are neither taught nor suggested by the applied art. It was also submitted that the phrase "automation system" has a particular meaning in the art pertaining to a complex system in the field of manufacturing or process automation that includes automation devices for production and process controls, such as motors, sensors, actuators, etc. As an example, the "Free On-Line Dictionary of Computing (FOLDOC)[1] defines "automation" as:

> "Automatic, as opposed to human, operation or control of a process, equipment or a system; other techniques and equipment used to achieve this. Most often applied to **computer (or at least electronic) control of a manufacturing process.**" (emphasis added).

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[1] A copy is attached as "APPENDIX" for the Examiner's convenience.

Further, Applicants disclose <u>Stripf et al.</u> U.S. Patent No. 6,263,487, which evidences that

the term "automation" is associated with manufacturing processes. As shown in Figure 1 of

<u>Stripf et al.</u>, the automation system is used in a manufacturing environment to control an

industrial process (see also, col. 1, lines 25-27, that further describes an automation system in the

context of a manufacturing site). During the teleconference, the Examiner asserted that the

pending claims do not require the manufacturing aspects and requested that Applicants amend

the claims to further define the claimed automation system.

Independent Claims 1, 13 and 16

Applicants address both prior art rejections by amending claims 1 and 16 to require a first

transmit/receive device disposed at a location of a remote user which sends a first e-mail

message, via a data transmission system, to the <u>automated manufacturing system</u>. Claims 1 and

16 also require a second transmit/receive device disposed at a location of the <u>automated</u>

<u>manufacturing system</u> to receive the first e-mail message sent by the remote user, along with an

instruction decoder which automatically identifies and transmits the instruction to an application

of the <u>automated manufacturing system</u>. Claim 13 recites features similar to claims 1 and 16,

while reciting first transmit/receive means, instruction means and second transmit/receive means.

The <u>Wookey</u>, <u>Naugle</u> and <u>Kuwabara</u> patents, cited as making obvious the features of

claims 1-22, do not relate to an automated manufacturing system nor do they disclose the

combination of features provided by the claimed system. Instead, <u>Wookey</u> relates to a computer

system, including mainframes, mini computers and workstations that utilize a diagnostic

program for analyzing and addressing problems which occur within its system. <u>Naugle</u> relates to

a system including two computer configurations that operate independently and are linked such that they can exchange electronic mail. Further, Kuwabara discloses a system in which diagnostic data is sent by a user to a maker (i.e., a system provider) when trouble occurs. If information sent by the user in Kuwabara is not sufficient, the maker sends an inspection program to the user. The user in Kuwabara is required to manually unload the trouble inspection program and carry out troubleshooting testing so that data can be gathered and then sent back to the maker.

Neither the combination of Wookey and Naugle; nor Kuwabara and Wookey discloses the required features of independent claims 1, 13 and 16 in regard to the automated manufacturing system.

The applied references also fail to address problems encountered by prior automated manufacturing systems. In the environment of automation systems it is desired to have access to the automation system from a remote site in order to control or change process values of the system or devices, or to get actual process information from the automation system and its devices. Such remote control and monitoring of an automation system has previously required a special data connection from a remote location to the automation system and its devices. However, the present invention makes it possible to "communicate" with the automation system via e-mail without a special bus system. The claimed features provide a data transmission system and method that reduce the need for human interaction in the manufacturing environment and make is possible to easily gain access to monitor or diagnosis the automated manufacturing system from anywhere. The only requirement is that the remote user has access to the internet.

One skilled in the art would not have been taught the claimed features (or afforded the benefits) of the present invention in view of prior art. Accordingly, Wookey and Naugle, and Kuwabara and Wookey do not teach or suggest the subject matter of claims 1, 13 and 16.

Independent Claim 9

Applicants amend claim 9 to render express that the recited method requires "receiving the first e-mail sent by the remote user at a location of the automated manufacturing system...identifying automatically, by the automated manufacturing system, the instruction contained in the first e-mail...and automatically forwarding the instruction to an intended application of the automated manufacturing system for execution of the instruction." Accordingly, for reasons analogous to the reasons presented with respect to claims 1, 13 and 16, Wookey and Naugle, and Kuwabara and Wookey do not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 9.

Independent claim 15

Applicants amend claim 15 to require an automated manufacturing system. In particular, claim 15 requires a first communication device disposed at a location outside the firewall and communicating with the automated manufacturing system through at least one of a first e-mail message and a second e-mail message. Further, claim 15 requires a second communication device disposed at a location inside the firewall and relaying at least one of an instruction and result information between the first communication device and the automated manufacturing system. Accordingly, for reasons similar to those presented above in regard to claims 1, 9, 13

and 16, <u>Wookey</u> and <u>Naugle,</u> and <u>Kuwabara</u> and <u>Wookey</u> do not teach or suggest the subject

matter of claim 15.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

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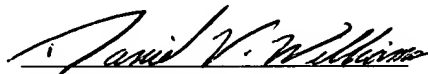
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